

Applicant: Van Soest, R.
Application No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: Herewith
Docket No.: 903-186 PCT/US
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B. Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): Device for inspecting objects with a substantially spherical surface, such as for example eggs or fruit, comprising optical observation means for observing the objects, a supporting surface for supporting the objects and a light source for illuminating the objects, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the device comprises a box with reflective walls which is positioned above the supporting surface and in which the light source and the observation means are accommodated.

Claim 2. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the supporting surface comprises a conveyor for conveying the objects through the box past the observation means.

Claim 3. (Currently amended): Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the box is substantially rectangular and has a top wall and four side walls.

Claim 4. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein at least the side walls are designed to be reflective.

Claim 5. (Currently amended): Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the reflective walls of the box have a coefficient of reflection of at least 0.8.

Claim 6. (Currently amended): Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the reflective walls are made from metal.

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Claim 7. (Currently amended): Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the light source is arranged on the top side of the box.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 7, ~~in which~~ wherein the light source has a uniform radiation plane.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, ~~in which~~ wherein the light source comprises one or more lamps which are distributed substantially uniformly.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 8, ~~in which~~ wherein the light source comprises one or more diffusor plates which cover the lamps on the inside of the box.

Claim 11. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 1 ~~10 in so far as the latter is dependent on claim 3~~, ~~in which the~~ wherein the box is substantially rectangular and has a top wall and four side walls, wherein the light source is arranged on the top side of the box, the light source comprising one or more diffusor plates which cover the lamps on the inside of the box so as to form a uniform radiation plane and the top wall of the box.

Claim 12. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the optical observation means comprise at least one camera.

Claim 13. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 12, ~~in which~~ wherein the device has at least two cameras which are arranged on opposite sides of the box.

Claim 14. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the device comprises a computer which is coupled to the optical observation means in order to compare the observations with predetermined reference values for automatic selection of the objects.

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Claim 15. (Currently amended): Device according to claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the reflecting walls of the box are mirrors.